

Pension Application for Silas Wells

S.11702

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

State of New York

Herkimer County SS.

On this eleventh day of October one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Herkimer now sitting Silas Wells a resident of the Town of Columbia in the County of Herkimer and State of New York aged eighty one years and upwards who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, Cornelius Humphrey of Dutchess County and State of New York was the Colonel under whom he enlisted on or about the early part of June in the year 1776, and with whom he served until the first day of December of that same year at which time the period of his enlistment expired, Colby Chamberlain was the Captain of the Company in which he served. Jams Tallmadge was the first Lieutenant according to the claimants best recollection.

During the above service this claimant was stationed at Fort Montgomery below the present site of West Point in the Highlands in said State and remained there excepting when sent out in the vicinity of said Fort on guard.

That sometime in the fall of 1778 but the precise month and day this claimant cannot state he enlisted for and served one month, his Colonel's name he does not recollect his Captain was Jonathan Weller of the Nine Partners in Dutchess County aforesaid.

That during this service the regiment to which he belonged detached and sent out a certain number of men from each company (of which he was one) to a place called Peenpack now in the County of Sullivan and State of New York.

That in the years 1779, 1780, and 1781 but the precise month and day this claimant cannot now recollect he made three other several enlistments as a militia man and was marched twice to West Point and was employed in digging and erecting fortifications, and in preparing a bomb proof as it was then called in that place, and that he was during the years last above mentioned enlisted and marched to Fort Constitution opposite West Point where he served one [?].

That his Colonel's name he does not now recollect, but Jonathan Weller was at one or more of these times his Captain.

That he resided during the whole of the war at the Nine Partners in the County of Dutchess and State of New York.

That during the years above mentioned he this claimant was frequently called out as a militia man and served a length of time each year, land was compelled to be so much of his times from home that he was unable to raise crops from the farm he occupied, but the length of time he thus served, excepting the periods above defined

this claimant can make no statement as he has no witness, of the same, living, and no means of refreshing his memory by any documentary evidence.

That he was in no engagement or battle during the war. That he served in Company with no Continental troops and cannot state the names of any regular officers from knowing them in the army.

That the County through which he was marched was as above stated between the Nine Partners and Fort Montgomery, West Point and Peenpack in Sullivan County. That he aided in the erection of Fort Montgomery and another Fort on the [? Opposite is crossed out] side of the Hudson river then named Fort Clinton something like half a mile from Fort Montgomery and father down the river. That there is no other material fact which this claimant now recollects connected with his service.

That he was born in the State of Rhode Island in the Town of North Kingston and County of Kingston in the year 1757 in the month of February.

That he has a record of his age at Sandy Creek in the County of Jefferson and State of New York where it was left four years since.

That he was living at the Nine Partners in Dutchess County when called into service and continued to reside there during the revolutionary war.—that he removed to the half moon so called in Saratoga County in the State of New York where he resided seven years then went following that he removed from Half Moon to Otsego in Otsego County and from Otsego to Sandy Creek in Jefferson County where he resided something like twenty years, and that he now resides in the Town of Columbia and has resided for the last three years in Herkimer County aforesaid.

That he enlisted the first time as a militia man and served five months and a half; that he enlisted as above stated at five other and different times for the term of one month each and served the whole of each of those terms of time; and always a volunteer.

That he served the first time under Colonel Cornelius Humphrey at Fort Montgomery where General James Clinton had the command. That this Fort and also Fort Clinton were taken by the enemy in the year 1777, when General Clinton was wounded but escaped being when [sentence ends here].

That he never received a discharge from the service excepting that at the expiration of each period of his enlistment his Captain told him he was at liberty to return home.

That this claimant refers the court to Russel Tenant and Hiram Tenant residing in his neighborhood at the present time for testimony as to his character for veracity and their belief of his having served as a soldier in the revolution.

And this Deponent says he was in fact in actual service either in camp, on the march, or in garrison as an enlisted soldier then months and an half, exclusive of his services as a militia man in 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, & 1781, and which said militia service this claimant cannot otherwise define excepting that the calls were so frequent as to prevent any regular attention to business especial in the years 1777 and 1778.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) Silas Wells

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court. Julius C. Nelson, Clerk

Letter in folder dated December 29, 1936, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War records of Peter Wells who received pension in Onondaga, New York (S.10042), and of Silas Wells who applied for pension in Herkimer, New York (S.11702).

Their records are furnished you, as follow, without any charge for the service:

PETER WELLS
S.10042

The data herein were obtained from the papers on file in pension claim, S.10042, based upon service in the Revolutionary War of Peter Wells.

Peter Wells was born October 25, 1748, in North Kingston, Rhode Island; the names of his parents are not shown. In 1768 he moved to East Greenwich, Kent County, Rhode Island.

While residing in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, Pete Wells enlisted about May 1, 1775, served as private in Captain Joseph Hawley's company, Colonel James M. Varnum's Rhode Island regiment, and was discharged January 1, 1776. He enlisted in the spring of 1776, served as private in Captain Job Pearce's company, Colonel Morey's Rhode Island regiment was discharged after having served five months, on account of being injured in his thumb by a rope when moving a cannon. He enlisted in July, 1778, served nineteen days as a private in Captain Michael Spencer's company, Colonel Waterman's Rhode Island regiment, and went on general Sullivan's Expedition to Rhode Island.

In 1779, the soldier moved to the Town of Hancock, Massachusetts, resided there and in the adjoining town of Stephentown, New York, until 1817, then moved to Westmoreland, Oneida County, New York, where he remained until 1820, thence to Lorraine, Jefferson County, New York, which was his place of residence until 1830; from there he moved to Onondaga, where he resided one year, thence to Alburgh, Vermont, where he remained until August 1833, then moved back to Onondaga, New York.

Peter Wells was allowed pension on his application executed February 1, 1834, at which time he was a resident of Onondaga, Onondaga County, New York.

No reference was made in the claim to soldier's wife. He had a son named Caliph H. A. Wells who was born in August, 1788, in Hancock, Massachusetts, and lived there with his father until twenty-four years of age then moved to Berlin, Rensselaer County, New York, where he remained until 1817, thence to Onondaga,

New York, and was still living there in 1834. Nor further reference was made to children.

SILAS WELLS

S.11702

You are furnished herein the record of Silas Wells as found in pension claim, S.11702, based upon his service in the Revolutionary War. It is the record of the only soldier of that name found in the Revolutionary War records of this office.

Silas Wells was born in February, 1761, in North Kingston, Kings County, Rhode Island the names of his parents not given.

While a resident of Nine Partners, Dutchess County, New York, Silas Wells volunteered in June, 1776, served as a private in Captain Colbe Chamberlain's company, Colonel Cornelius Humphrey's New York regiment, stationed at Forts Montgomery and Clinton where he was engaged in erecting fortifications and was discharged December 1, 1776, after having served five and one half months. He volunteered and served five different tours of one month each during the period from 1777 to 1781, a part of the time under Captain Jonathan Weller in the New York troops, no further details of this service given.

After the Revolutionary War, the soldier moved to Half Moon, Saratoga County, New York, where he resided seven years, thence to Otsego. Otsego County; from there he moved to Sandy Creek, Jefferson County, where he lived twenty years, and about 1829 moved to Columbia, Herkimer County, all in New York State.

Silas Wells was allowed pension on his application executed October 11, 1832, while a resident of Columbia, Herkimer County, New York. He died February 14, 1841.

There are no family data in the claim.